(a) whether Government have decided to throw open the proven oil and gas fields in the country to foreign firms for development as per the news item entitled "Oil Exploration-Foreign participation cleared" which appeared in the Times of India of July 11, 1991; and

(b) if so, the number of those proven oil and gasfields in the country and the details of the terms and conditions under which the foreign firms will be allowed to participate in the exploration and development of the oil and gas fields referred to above?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No Sir, except for the inclusion of one block where a small oilfield has been found in the Fourth Round.

Daily flight from Delhi to Nagpur

970. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no daily flight from Delhi to Nagpur, which is the second most important city in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a daily flight from Delhi to Nagpur; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The present passenger demand between Delhi and Nagpur does not justify a daily service.

Oil Reserves in West Bengal and Gujarat

971. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC authorities have been suppressing information regarding the finding of huge oil reserves in West Bengal and Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to explore the same; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken against concerned ONGC authorities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of All Weather Jetty at Elephanta Caves

972. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOUORISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to release financial assistance sought by Maharashtra Government to construct an all weather jetty at the Elephanta Caves; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to reconsider their decision?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned Rs. 10.50 lakhs for strengthening of the existing Jetty at Elephanta, during the Sixth Five Year Plan. It was not found feasible to sanction an all weather jetty at Elephanta due to the high cost of the project and the limited funds available with the Ministry.